

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TUNIS 01624 192010Z

10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /067 W

----- 127826

R 191600Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8527

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 1624

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV TS

SUBJECT: BOURGUIBA'S PRESIDENCY FOR LIFE IS OFFICIAL;
TUNIS NOT EXCITED

REF: TUNIS A-178, DECEMBER 30, 1974

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MARCH 18 APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY,
AND PRESIDENT ENACTED BY SIGNING TEXTS MARCH 19,
AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 40 AND 51 OF TUNISIAN CONSTITU-
TION. EFFECT IS TO LEGALIZE BOURGUIBA'S DESIGNATION
AS PRESIDENT FOR LIFE, AND TO CLARIFY THAT WHEN PRIME
MINISTER SUCCEEDS TO PRESIDENCY HIS TERM IN THAT OFFICE
ENDS CONCURRENTLY WITH THE FIVE-YEAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION
THEN UNDER WAY.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS UNOFFICIAL TEXTS TRANSMITTED AS
ENCLOSURES TO REFAIRGRAM. EMBASSY WILL SUPPLY OFFICIAL
TEXTS WHEN PRINTED IN GOVERNMENT JOURNAL.

3. BOURGUIBA WENT TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MORNING
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TUNIS 01624 192010Z

MARCH 19 TO SIGN AMENDMENTS INTO EFFECT, AND DELIVERED

HOURLONG SPEECH ALONG NOW VERY FAMILIAR LINES. HE REPEATEDLY SPOKE OF DAMAGING IMPACT OF STRIKES ON HARD-WON NATIONAL UNITY, PROPHESED THAT TUNISIA WILL BE STABLE AND SUCCESSFUL IF IT ADHERES TO UNITY BOURGUIBA HAD ACHIEVED FOR IT, AND EMPHASIZED CARE WITH WHICH HE HAD PICKED PRI MIN NOUIRA TO BE HIS SUCCESSOR.

4. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS DID ITS BEST TO MAKE MUCH OF THE OCCASION, CALLING ON POPULACE TO LINE ROUTE OF BOURGUIBA'S RETURN FROM THE ASSEMBLY, TURNOUT WAS THIN AND ENTHUSIASM MUTED. AT ONE MAJOR INTERSECTION NEAR CROWDED OLD CITY OF TUNIS, WHERE LARGE CROWD MIGHT BE EXPECTED, CROWD OF SEVERAL THOUSAND CONSISTED LARGELY OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN MARCHED THERE BY TEACHERS. CROWD CLAPPED IN TIME TO ARABIC DANCE MUSIC PLAYED BY BAND, AND CLAPPING CONTINUED UNCHANGED AS PRESIDENT DROVE SLOWLY BY STOPPING TO KISS SMALL GIRL WITH FLOWERS. THERE WAS NO CLAQUE, AND ALMOST NO SPONTANEOUS CHEERING. DURING TEN-BLOCK STROLL IN AREA WHILE BOURGUIBA STILL SPEAKING AT ASSEMBLY, EMBOFF NOTED ONLY TWO SHOPS WITH RADIOS TUNED TO HIS SPEECH. OTHERS PREFERRED MUSIC.
SEELYE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TUNIS01624
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750096-1090
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750334/aaaabeve.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TUNIS A-178, 75 DECEMBER 30, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOURGUIBA'S PRESIDENCY FOR LIFE IS OFFICIAL; TUNIS NOT EXCITED
TAGS: PGOV, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006